

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

and of John R. Rice

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20.

An Independent Religious Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Sin, Modernism, and Denominational Overlordship

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DALLAS, TEXAS, FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 1937

Office: 201 East Tenth St., Phone 6-6888

An Unexpected Honor

One day last week from President William A. Matthews of the Los Angeles Baptist Theological Seminary came a surprising letter. Part of Dr. Matthews' letter is as follows:

THE LOS ANGELES BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
3942 Whittier Boulevard
Los Angeles, California

May 31, 1937

"Dr. John Rice
201 East Tenth Street
Dallas, Texas

"Dear Doctor Rice:

"In recognition of the outstanding services you have rendered our Baptist denomination as Preacher, Evangelist, Editor and Author, I have the honor to notify you that our Board of Trustees voted unanimously to confer upon you the degree of Doctor of Divinity. Under separate cover we are mailing you the beautiful diploma, every letter of which is hand inscribed."

The letter concluded with the request:

"The next time you come to the Pacific coast be sure to give me a ring or wire me so that we may . . . have the honor of hearing you address our faculty and student body."

"Sincerely and faithfully yours,
(Signed) William A. Matthews,
President."

The next day came the beautifully inscribed sheepskin, encased in leather and sealed with a golden seal. The wording on the diploma is as follows:

"President, Trustees and Faculty of
THE LOS ANGELES BAPTIST
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Los Angeles, California
Greetings:

THIS CERTIFIES THAT JOHN RICE stands distinguished for his attainments in Biblical Scholarship, Faithfulness as a Pastor, and his eminent ability as a preacher and teacher of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Wherefore, by virtue of the authority vested in us as an Educational Corporation by the laws of the State of California, we do hereby confer upon him the honorary title of Degree of

DOCTOR OF DIVINITY

"In Witness Whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and affixed the Seal of the Seminary this thirtieth day of May, Nineteen hundred and thirty-seven.
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

Help Coming On The Printing Bill

Our hearts are grateful that God is raising up friends to *The Sword of the Lord*. Several offerings have come since last week on the heavy printing bill. Another paper has been printed but we are sending \$50.00 and the bill is slightly reduced. We covet the prayers of our friends that God will own His paper; first, in using it to save sinners and bless Christians; and second, that He will own it in providing for the printing bills. Neither the editor or any of the other workers get a cent of income, expenses, wages or anything else from *The Sword of the Lord*. We praise the Lord for this privilege and trust that others will share the burden with us as God lays it on their hearts.

CAN ONE MAN SAVE A CITY?

"Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if ye can find a man, if there be any that executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth; and I will pardon it" (Jer. 5:1).

The long-suffering and tender mercy of God is past human belief. He is "slow to anger and plenteous in mercy." It seems that God's love is so great that He searches for an excuse to forgive and bless. God is more willing to bless than preachers are; God spared wicked Nineveh to the great disappointment of Jonah, and Jesus heard the cry of the Syro-Phoenician woman when the apostles said, "Send her away; for she crieth after us." Here God tells Jeremiah to run to and fro throughout the streets of the doomed city, Jerusalem, which He has marked for famine and sword and captivity at the hand of Nebuchadnezzar. If the prophet can find one man who "executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth," God will pardon the city. The dear Lord knew ahead of time the wickedness of the city and that there was not one man fit to intercede for the city, one man whole heartedly for the Lord, and for that reason the city was destroyed and the people slain or carried into captivity. But what a lesson there is for us here that for one man's faithfulness God would have spared and forgiven the whole city!

"Ye are the salt of the earth," the Saviour said, and yet we have never realized how much saving influence one Christian may have.

Ten righteous people could have saved Sodom, but they were not to be found. Or on more careful

Shall I Crucify My Saviour?

Shall I crucify my Saviour,
When for me He bore such loss?
Shall I put to shame my Saviour?
Can I nail Him to the cross?

Are temptations so alluring,
Do earth's pleasures so enthrall
That I cannot love my Saviour
Well enough to leave them all?

Oh, the kindly hand of Jesus,
Pouring blessings on all men,
Bleeding nail scarred hand of Jesus
Can I nail them once again?

Chorus

Shall I crucify my Saviour,
Crucify my Lord again?
Once, oh once I crucified Him.
Shall I crucify again?

— Selected.

thought, one can see that one righteous person might have saved the city. If Lot had won his own daughters and sons-in-law, his own wife and two or three servants, he would have saved the city. Upon Lot, the saved man who had a righteous soul but pitched his tent toward Sodom, must lay the blame that he sent his whole city to Hell. The salt had lost its savor, the light was put under a bushel, the Christian's influence failed.

What a wealth of blessing every Christian can be is indicated by

the words of the Saviour in John 7:37: "He that believeth on me out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water" and He told the woman at the well that "Who-soever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life," that is, a spring of salvation for others.

Can one man save a city? Yes, Moses saved a whole nation! When (CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

"And Your Feet Shod With The Preparation of The Gospel of Peace"

EPHESIANS 6:15

Soul winning begins with the feet! To our proud and haughty human minds it would seem proper that soul winning would demand the most brilliant minds, the greatest education, and the strongest possible backing of wealth and influence. But here instead, soul winning is made a prosaic matter of the feet! But that is the way God has. He has chosen by the foolishness of preaching to save men instead of by the wisdom of angels or even the wisdom of this world. He has chosen the weak to confound the mighty. So soul winning is very largely a matter of consecrated feet.

A little reflection will show that the same principle is taught many times throughout the Bible. In the Great Commission the first two words are "Go ye." Going is before teaching, preaching or baptizing! In Psalm 126:6, where God gives a wonderful outline of soul winning, we are told that "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." Again, going is before sowing or reaping or weeping or rejoicing. God certainly demands that we put feet in soul winning. And when He wanted to make soul winners out of some fishermen He said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."

Following comes before fishing just as going comes before sowing. Walking comes before talking in God's plan.

In the 14th chapter of Luke the work of a soul winner is clearly pictured. A man made a great supper and bade many. Now notice the activities of the servant (the model soul winner), and his lord's commands to him. "And sent his servant at supper time to say . . . You see going comes before saying. Again, "So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things." Soul winning is not all glory. A lot of it is coming back for further orders when your message didn't get results.

Notice again, "Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither," etc. "Go out" must be before "come in." The feet have much to do with soul winning.

Then we find that the servant, after going out into the streets and lanes of the city (what a lot of walking it takes to win souls!) came back and reported that there was yet more room. Notice the command, "And the lord said unto the servant, GO out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled." The same servant

who had gone from house to house for the guests first invited and who then searched all the streets and lanes of the city for the poor, the maimed, the halt and the blind, then at last set out for the highways in the country and up and down the hedges to compel the people to come in! And between times he returned again and again to report to his boss. That servant's main business was not inviting but going. Going took more time than anything else. Getting out the gospel is largely a matter of foot work. And remember that one command was "go quickly." I am sure that that servant was valued by his master, not for his eloquent speech or his tender pleading, but most of all, for his faithful going!

And so all Christians are commanded to have "your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace!"

Beautiful Feet

The feet of a soul winner are beautiful in God's sight. So the Spirit of God tells us in Isaiah 52:7:

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth (CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

H. C. OWNBEY

This is part of letters received from two pastors after they returned home from the recent Bible School in Dallas:

"Dear Brother Rice:

"I want you to know that I had a delightful time at the Bible School last week. I enjoyed every moment of my stay there. Only sorry that I could not begin and stay through the school, but, owing to the fact that I was in a revival meeting with Brother Lee Kidd in El Reno, Oklahoma, I felt it best that I should return."

"I feel that your Bible School was a great success. I never heard preaching that stirred my soul and gave me a greater zeal and determination to win lost souls. I have been meditating and praying much since I returned. Your messages on 'Holy Spirit Power,' and Dr. McCarrell's messages on 'Soul Winning,' and Brother Springer's message on 'Revivals and Evangelism' rejoiced my heart and stirred me as I have never been stirred for months; and I think I never heard such singing in all my life—singing that thrilled me and lifted me to such heights and appreciation as Mr. Tindley's."

"Brother Rice, one thing I appreciated particularly about the meeting there, was the tender feeling and fellowship among the preachers generally, and, in fact, all with whom I was privileged to fellowship. Members of your church were a blessing to me. I am always happy for an opportunity to be with them. I always receive a blessing while I am there and never come away from there without rejoicing and thanking God for their great fellowship."

REV. H. C. OWNBEY,
Pastor, Bible Baptist Church,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

"Dear Brother Rice:

"I surely did get a blessing in the Bible School, and also I can use so much that I got there, in my work here in Electra, as it was practical. I feel I am better equipped to serve my Lord and Saviour since being in the Bible School."

"Bro. McCarrell's messages are still ringing in my ears. My, how he increased my faith in God!"

"I enjoyed every speaker and every singer, and this kind of a program is the type that any Christian, (Jew or Gentile) could get a blessing from as well as after hearing same be better equipped to serve God."

"A preacher friend of mine here said, 'Say, I wish I had gone with you;' and next time, God willing, I will bring him with me."

REV. J. B. WATSON, JR.,
Pastor Bible Church,
Electra, Texas.

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The subscription price of *The Sword of the Lord* is only fifty cents a year. With that price this weekly paper full of blessed Bible teaching, preaching and inspiration will come to your home every week at a cost of less than a penny a day. It seems that every Christian could afford one penny a day for Spiritual food. If you can only subscribe for six months (CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

Missionaries Subscribing for The Sword of the Lord

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

at a time, do so. Many would greatly honor the Lord and help us carry out the great commission by subscribing for others. When you renew for yourself, subscribe for somebody else, also. A dollar bill is so easy to send in a letter. If you have some money that you feel led to use for God in this way, why not subscribe for ten or twenty or more? The paper has led to many conversions. Christians write in every mail telling how the messages of *The Sword of the Lord* have encouraged them and fed them and inspired them. And of all the testimonies, we believe the word that comes from preachers day after day, from all parts of America, brings us the most happiness. May God bless these dear ministers, preachers of the gospel who read *The Sword of the Lord* and say it helps them in their study of the Scriptures and strengthens them for the fight against sin. Today, for instance, a very cheering letter came from a Baptist pastor in East Texas who wrote most kindly about the blessings in *The Sword of the Lord* and renewed his subscription. Today, also, a subscription came from a Methodist pastor in Wisconsin. These we recall among others. And so the work goes on.

We humbly entreat you who read to help us spread the gospel through *The Sword of the Lord*. Subscribe for your pastor, your mother, or other loved ones and friends.

If you know a missionary on the foreign field, then I hope you will subscribe for that dear child of God, isolated on the far-flung bat-

tle field. Recently a missionary in South Africa who gets *The Sword of the Lord* subscribed for four others. When those four missionaries began to get *The Sword of the Lord* other missionaries saw copies of it and now here comes a card from this same missionary with the names of eight other missionaries. She had no money to subscribe for them but said these eight wanted the paper if it could be sent. Fortunately, praise the Lord, a dear reader had sent money designated for this purpose, that is to pay for subscriptions to missionaries and someone else had left money to pay for anybody's subscription who wanted the paper, so we were able to send the paper to all eight missionaries. How it rejoices our hearts to know that in the dark continent consecrated souls, far away from homes and loved ones and the comforts of our civilization will be fed and inspired and blessed by the Bible messages in this little paper! If you can help us send the paper to such people, you will receive your reward in Heaven.

Remember that while the subscription price is fifty cents a year, we will send the paper for three years for \$1.00. That saves us making new stencils and helps us to build a steady subscription list.

Fifty cents is less than the cost of printing and postage. Subscriptions and advertising never pay these two items alone. All the workers give their time, or are supported from other sources and then the deficit in the printing bill is made up by those who feel led of God to keep this work going.

We want your subscription. And then when you have sent your subscriptions, do not forget that prayer is more important than money. Remember us and our labor of love, when you call on the God of all grace, the Father of mercies.

"I Can't Do Without It"

"I have been reading your wonderful paper for only a short while, but have decided already that I can't do without it.

"A good friend . . . gave me the paper for one year, for which I'm more than proud. So may God help you to continue giving us sound doctrine. That is what the world is starving to death today for.

"I am enclosing 50c in stamps for a year's subscription to be sent to my father-in-law.
(Signed) Rev. D. H. Addison, Alabama."

Can One Man Save A City?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

he came down from Mount Sinai after forty days in the very presence of God with his face so shining with glory that he must needs put a veil over it, he found the whole nation Israel had corrupted themselves in idolatry, drunkenness and nakedness. They danced around the golden calf which Aaron, God's appointed high priest, had made and said, "These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt." The righteous anger of God flamed against their sin and God said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiffnecked people; now therefore let me alone that my wrath may wax hot against them and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation" (Exo. 32:9, 10). But Moses' pleading intreaty in the following verses turned the heart of an angry God, "And the Lord repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people" (verse 14). The Psalmist says, "Therefore, he said that he should destroy them, had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach to turn away his wrath lest he should destroy them" (Psa. 106:23).

Dear reader, how much saving influence goes out from you? Has your salt lost its savor? Are you a light set on a candlestick, a city set on a hill? We suppose that the jailor's influence won his whole family and that Lydia won hers. Joshua said, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord," so he was salt to all of his big household of children, grandchildren and servants. If one man could have saved Jerusalem, if ten men could have saved Sodom, and if the intercession of Moses spared the whole nation of wicked Israel, then what could you do if you would?

We know that the Man of Sin cannot be revealed in the earth and the great tribulation with all its torments cannot begin until he that now letteth is taken away, that is, until the Holy Spirit living in the bodies of Christians is taken away at the rapture (II Thess. 2:6-8). In a very real sense, then, the Christians are the salt of the earth. The presence of the saints of God, and of the Spirit of God within them, is all that preserves this world from plunging into the blackness of terrible war, demon possession, Satanic delusions and the reign of the Man of Sin, Satan incarnate, the Antichrist. Weak as Christians are, we are all God has in this world to save it from sin. Beloved, has your salt lost its savor?

Achan cursed the whole nation and Israel lost the battle of Ai because of his sin (Joshua 7:1-5). David, by numbering the people brought a curse on Israel and many died (I Chron. 21:1-7). But Phinehas, the priest who in holy order against sin thrust through a sinning man and woman with a javelin and "the plague was stayed from the children of Israel" after 24,000 died (Num. 25:1-9). The Psalmist writes, "Then stood up Phinehas, and executed judgment: and so the plague was stayed. And that was counted unto him for righteousness unto all generations for evermore" (Psalms 106:30, 31). How many thousands were spared that day because of one man's bold stand for God! Remember that we are told in the New Testament "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins" (James 5:19, 20).

Christian, you are the salt of the earth! You can save your family. Perhaps by your righteous life, your bold testimony and intercessory prayer you may even save a whole city! I beg you do not miss your opportunity like Lot. Claim your household like the jailor and Lydia and Joshua. Every time you win a sinner you will save a soul from Hell and hide a multitude of sins and your blessed reward will be — "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament: and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever!"

Unexpected Honor

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

"WM. A. MATTHEWS, D. D., Ph. D., President of the Seminary

"REID McCULLOUGH, D. D., Dean of Faculty

"FRED H. FIELDING, L. L. B., Secretary of Trustees."

The editor is profoundly moved by the kindness of the president, faculty and trustees of this fine seminary on the Pacific coast. The honor was wholly unexpected. The editor had no inkling that they even considered conferring the degree. But the surprise does not diminish our gratitude and we are sensible that a very great honor has been done us by this noble institution. May God grant I may prove worthy of my new Alma Mater.

In Philadelphia in the fall of 1935 Brother Matthews and I spoke on the same program and had the joy of fellowship. Later we met again in May of '36 in Chicago at the meeting of the Regular Baptist Association and had sweet fellowship. Then last October when I was engaged in a revival at Phoenix, Arizona, I was invited to Los Angeles to speak before faculty and student body and friends. Brother Stroh sang and I spoke and the Lord met us with blessing.

The Los Angeles Baptist Theological Seminary was founded independent of the denominational headquarters and for the purpose of providing a fundamentally sound Baptist Theological Seminary which would be untainted with modernism, true to the fundamentals of the faith, standing for verbal inspiration of the Scriptures, the deity of Christ, His blood atonement and the premillennial coming of Christ. I had recently been inspired in reading the history of this seminary which is carried on on a basis of faith and prayer.

The seminary is thoroughly evangelistic and missionary. President Matthews led in the founding of a great Baptist mission work in Hawaii and organized the Hawaiian

Evangelistic Crusade for its support. In September of 1932 the seminary sent out a missionary to Honolulu. Last February Rev. and Mrs. Biddle, graduates of the seminary went to that mission field, and eight other missionaries are waiting for funds to send them.

We pray the blessings of God upon Dr. Matthews and the Los Angeles Baptist Theological Seminary. We urge our readers to pray for this seminary which is true to the Bible, which still believes in revivals, which is sending out missionaries, this seminary which teaches young preachers, that the power of God is more important than learning.

Meanwhile, grateful as we are for the unexpected honor bestowed upon us, we renew our sincere conviction that only the calling, anointing, and blessing of God can make a preacher. We were happy to have the approval and commendation of good and learned men; we are much more anxious to have the approval and blessing of God.

Sent to Unsaved Children

"My dear friends:

"I am sorry I have not been able to subscribe but I wanted to get up a club of new subscriptions for *The Sword of the Lord*. Brother Rice, I think every home should have your paper. I have missed it so much. I had it sent to my unsaved children, and Brother Rice, I believe it is going to help bring them into the fold of God.

"Mrs. W. R. T. —
Kermit, Texas

"Brother Rice, your paper is a blessing to the saved and unsaved alike. I have thought many times it was too good to let all the sermons go by and not be read by my loved ones and friends but I was not able to send it to each of them for a year. I work for small wages but I have a little tithe money I want to use for the Lord in this way.

"Please send the paper to the following:

"Miss I. F. —
Bogata, Texas

THE SWORD OF THE LORD and of John R. Rice

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JOHN R. RICE, EDITOR, Pastor of Fundamental Baptist Church

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(Signed) "Mrs. N. W. Hulbert, Okla."

"I prayed for God to send me the dollar if He would have me send in ten names for a trial subscription of the *Sword*. The dollar came yesterday so here are the names and the dollar. Most of these people are unsaved and I have prayed for them a long time. I am trusting that God will use your little paper to bring them to Christ. Someone had the *Sword* sent to me and I enjoy it greatly. May God bless your efforts for Him abundantly.

"A. W. G. Rupert, Arkansas

"And Your Feet Shod With the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace"

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!"

Again, Nahum 1:15 is a similar passage, praising the feet of those who carry the gospel message.

"Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace!"

In Romans 10:15 we have the same message.

"And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

How can one preach except he first goes? Of what use is a mouth with a sweet message unless the feet carry it? How beautiful are the feet of the soul winner!

I can well understand how the dear Saviour Himself washed the feet of the disciples. He meant it as a lesson in humility and yet somehow He made the feet of a preacher grand and beautiful things. The feet of the apostles trudged over the then known world carrying the gospel.

Every preacher, every missionary, every soul winner ought to read carefully the story of Paul's missionary journeys with this in mind, that Paul spent more time walking than he did preaching and his feet got more exercise than his mouth! Paul not only preached publicly but also "from house to house" (Acts 20:20).

I was profoundly impressed one day in reading Acts 20:13 and 14:

"And we went before to ship, and sailed unto Assos, there intending to take in Paul: for so had he appointed, minding himself to go afoot. And when he met with

us at Assos, we took him in, and came to Mitylene."

Paul was minded to go afoot from Troas to Assos, a distance, I suppose, of eighteen or twenty miles. I think it likely that on the crowded ship he would have no quiet in which to meditate and pray, no time to seek the will and power of God. So he provided that his lesser companions should have the comfort of the ship and he himself walked while they rode. And to make it more interesting yet, remember that in the same chapter the preceding verses tell how the night before he had preached until midnight, then brought back to life the young man who fell out of the third story window, ate a midnight lunch and talked on 'till daylight! Following that, then, Paul felt the need to walk a day long journey, to the next preaching place! Beautiful feet of Paul! They were a soul winner's feet. No wonder that Paul could write and say of himself, "In labours more abundant." The would-be soul winner often misses the point so clearly taught in the Bible that there is a severe price in toll if you want to be a soul winner.

I can easily get a preacher willing to fill a pulpit and preach a sermon. But it is a difficult thing to get somebody to do house to house visitation. Harder still it is to get Christians to take tracts and walk block after block giving out the message of life, or spreading revival circulars and handbills. Christians do not realize that walking is the first part of soul winning. Pearls are found in oysters in the bottom of the sea, diamonds are found in the dirt far below the surface of the ground in Africa, and the soul

winner's joy is found in the midst of drudgery and toil. Precious souls are not won without going after them and it takes consecrated feet to be a soul winner! Oh, may Christians who read this develop feet that are beautiful in the sight of God, feet over which new converts in glory will rejoice and say, "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" Have your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.

May I urge every one who longs to win souls to set himself to pay a price. You envy the soul winner's joy and well you may, but it costs far more than you know. Do not think lightly of his work. Perhaps you see only the platform work, the public speech, and you do not know the enormous amount of drudgery and going, the foot work that is necessary for anybody to be a soul winner for Christ.

"Shod With the Preparation —"

There are too many barefooted Christians. There are too many would-be soul winners who go out not shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. Once "Uncle William Mullins" said about a certain problem that he faced, "Now this is going to be a battle of wits!" His wife, Mamie, replied, "That is just like you, William, entering into a battle half armed!" There are too many Christians entering into the battle with the devil, half armed. The lesson here is that if you want to win souls then get ready.

I well remember about my dear father who is now in Heaven that the first garments he put on each morning were his socks. He didn't want his feet to get cold. And so one of the first things for a Christian to do every day is to prepare his mind and heart for soul winning. Put the shoes of the gospel on your feet before you start out for the day.

First of all, I think this means that you need a new dedication to soul winning every day. The little song we sang in Sunday School a long time ago is good for every Christian:

"I washed my hands this morning,
So very clean and white,
And held them up to Jesus,
To work for Him till night.
Little feet be careful
Where you take me to.
Anything for Jesus,
Only let me do."

Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which you have of God and you are commanded therefore to glorify God in your body. Then let God have your feet! Dedicate them to Him each day to carry the gospel. A fire hose with a high pressure nozzle may shoot a stream of water hundreds of feet and that may do for putting out fires, but it will not do for carrying water to the sick and dying. That you must carry by hand and perhaps hold the cup while they sip. My dear friend, you cannot shoot the gospel to China from the home base; somebody must carry it there. It is well enough to enclose tracts in letters. Every way to get out the gospel is good. But some people will never be reached without the clasp of a warm hand and the earnest searching gaze and the quiet word and sometimes the tear of one whose trudging feet have carried the gospel in person. Strangely enough, the gospel goes better by retail than by wholesale. I believe in mass evangelism, but do not misunderstand mass evangelism. The great revivals are made up principally on the human side of thousands of details, steps taken, planning, inviting, advertising, sweating, crying and praying. And then the public preaching and singing often get all the credit!

So if you want to win souls, get your shoes on your feet every day. That means get some Scriptures on your heart that you can use in winning sinners. That means plan your work. Get leadership from the Spirit of God as to where you should go, who you should see, and what you should say. Watch for the "breaks" in the game. Many a football game has been decided because an alert player blocked a punt or fell on the ball or snatched a pass not intended for him. I have known preachers who, suddenly called upon to

preach, were unprepared and I have always thought it was a shocking and wicked state of mind that any preacher should not have bait on the hook for every fish and his gun loaded all the time. The Christian's mind should be so set on soul winning, and his heart so prepared for soul winning, and his will so surrendered to the Spirit's leadership, that he can win souls at every opportunity.

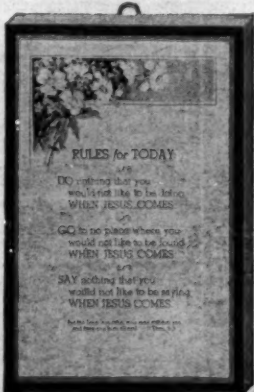
Will you permit a bit of personal testimony? The other day I was called to a funeral of an old man that I did not know, yet one who had plainly told his loved ones he was ready to go to meet Christ his Saviour. I had never seen the man who died, I did not know a one of his relatives or friends who were present at the funeral. I did not know a single pall bearer except one that I took with me, yet my heart was greatly moved and I felt led to preach on John 3:16. I thought that surely these dear troubled souls, most of whom were unsaved, would be comforted by the thought that comforts my own heart, that God so loved them as to give His Son. At that funeral I preached a gospel sermon, almost as I would preach it in a revival campaign. I asked those who needed Christ to hold their hands for prayer and most of those present did. I asked those who would take Christ as Saviour and claim Him openly, and tearfully a number of them did. When I returned from the cemetery (where I had the joy of winning two others), I searched back through the day to the time in the early morning when in my private devotion I had asked the dear Lord to help me win somebody that day and tried to get my heart set on soul winning. Through the mercy and help of God I had in a small measure had my feet shod with

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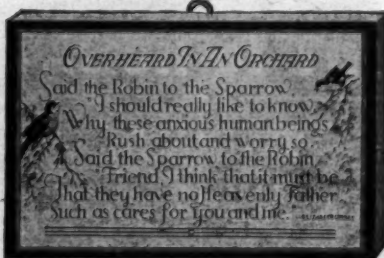
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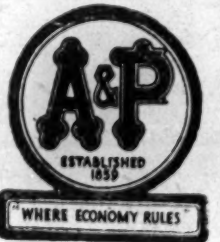


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"And Your Feet Shod With the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace"

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

the preparation of the gospel of peace.

Again, very humbly, permit me to give another illustration. Last Saturday night I was called out of bed at 11:30 to marry a couple. I was very tired. I had risen at 5:30 in the morning and at 6:00 I had gone to work on the lot, preparing for the revival, digging holes, cutting weeds, moving benches, setting light poles, helping build the giant screen for Bro. Webb's pictures. It had been a busy, heavy day. And yet somehow my heart was moved to hunger over sinners and to pray for them. I had retired rather sadly because I had not won a soul that day. When I went to the door and found that a dear friend had brought to me his sister and her sweetheart that I might perform

the ceremony, I prayed while I dressed that God would give me wisdom. The young couple loved each other very dearly. It showed in their faces and in every act. After the marriage ceremony when both were awed and moved by the Scriptures and the sanctity of the step they were taking, I urged upon them to need to take Christ as Saviour, to take Him into the home and into their hearts. The young man first and then the girl, claimed to trust in Christ.

After a time of counsel and when they started to leave me at the door the young man said, "Brother Rice, I am sorry to keep you up so late but you have made me so very happy and I believe that you are happy in our happiness!"

I do not win as many as I should and I do not know how many opportunities I missed last Saturday. But I do know that God helped me in the eleventh hour, at the time when these young hearts were tender because early in the day I had committed myself to winning souls and had asked the dear Lord to shoe my feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace! Some I had talked to, to no avail and others, I am sure, I might have won but I did not. Yet I thank God for those two.

How many we could win if we were ready! Jesus won the woman at the well of Samaria because "he must needs go through Samaria," that is, ahead of time He had prepared and planned to win that dear soul and others. He won her because His mind was not on food as were the minds of His disciples. He could say, "I have meat to eat that ye know not of" because He had shod His feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace.

Oh, my dear Christians, take time to get ready every day for soul winning! Study your Bible, ask God to cleanse your heart, seek divine wisdom in your plans. Get the right tracts to give out, ask the Holy Spirit to give you the words to say.

Philip, the evangelist, Acts chapter eight tells us, walked all the way from Samaria down to the road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza, which is desert. It must have been a long tiresome journey, particularly for a great evangelist who was called away from the thrill of a marvelous revival. But Philip went. He had beautiful feet in God's sight! I am sure they seemed so to the eunuch also. And the compassionate heart of God was so moved in love toward Philip that on the return journey he was caught away and was carried back by the Spirit to Azotus. He had been faithful in walking so he got a ride, carried by the Holy Spirit! But all the long walk of Philip would have been wasted if he could not have begun at Isaiah 53, at the same Scripture, and had preached unto the eunuch Jesus! Philip walked but before he went walking he put on his shoes. He had his feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. He knew his Bible, he was led by the Spirit, he had his heart prepared in sincere love for sinners.

A preacher can well afford, then, to read his Bible. Elisha could well afford to be simply for a time, he "which poured water on the hands of Elijah" (II Kings 3:11). Timothy could well afford to wash Paul's feet and write his letters for a time before he got to be the bishop of the great church at Ephesus. Any would-be soul winner can well afford to read his Bible, to wait before God in prayer, to be filled with the Spirit of God. Put on your shoes, brother, put on your shoes!

"The Gospel of Peace"

The soul winner's feet are to be shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. The good news is so sweet that the soul winner must enjoy it himself. The messenger of a king may carry a package or letter whose seal he dare not break but it is not so with God's messengers. The soul winner must know the gospel that he is to take to the sinner. He must be able to say, "I have tried it myself." If you seek sinners, you must be saved yourself, and the sweet gospel that won you must be fresh in your heart again.

When Samson found the honey in the carcass of the lion he very properly carried some to his mother and father. But he carried it in his own hands, eating as he went! My dear brother, there is honey enough for all. Eat it and be filled with the gospel of peace as you carry it to others.

Here is a strange thing, my brother. No verse of Scripture will ever be so sweet to you as when you have used that verse to win some soul. A preacher never understands other parts of the Bible so well as that portion of the bread of life which God has led him to break for others. The sweetest verses in my Bible are those when I have preached with tears and power and others have been blessed. It is a gospel of peace that you carry and part of the soul winner's preparation is the sweet enjoyment of the assurance of his own salvation. One who rejoices that his name is written in Heaven may get other names written there, too.

This is Part of the Christian's Armour

And now comes a surprising lesson. The soul winner's shoes are part of his armour, part of his defense against Satan. In this same passage, in Ephesians 6, read verses 10-13.

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."

"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

Verse 15 simply tells how to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might as commanded in verse 10. It is part of the whole armour of God mentioned in verse 11 and these shoes are to be put on "that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Verse 12 tells us that we have a terrific battle on, not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness, etc. Satan and all his evil spirits are around about the Christian. Therefore for his own safety the Christian must HAVE HIS "FEET SHOD WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE!"

In war and in football we are told that the "best defense is a good offense." The Christian who retires from the field of battle and lets souls go unhindered to Hell is not safe from temptation; rather he is in greater danger. The Christian who really puts up a fight against Satan and snatches men as brands from the burning will find that all about him God has put a wall of protection.

How many times I have been almost defeated; discouraged, downhearted, without a message to preach—but when I got out to personal soul winning and had the joy of seeing some saved, what joy! What close touch with God! How much easier it is to pray when you win souls! How much easier it is to resist temptation when your feet are shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.

The only safe place for a Christian is in the line of duty and that is always in a path of soul winning. A young man called to preach said to me the other day, "Brother Rice, if I do not preach I can't even live like a Christian." No doubt he was telling me the truth. One who follows the Spirit in soul winning can have the help of God in time of need. But if with a wilful heart you pick your own path outside the will of God you throw yourself open to a thousand evils and make yourself a prey to Satan and his evil spirits.

So, my brother, put the shoes of the gospel on your feet and set out to win souls. Dedicate your feet to the blessed business of carrying Christ to sinners—"and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace."

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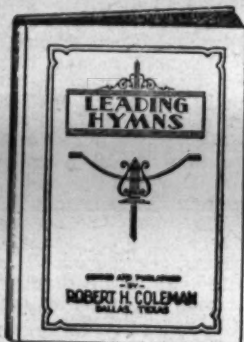
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